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### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE—OCTOBER 2001

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 0.4 percent over the past two months, not seasonally adjusted, to a level of 174.2 (1982-84=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin announced that for the 12-month period ended in October, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 2.7 percent.

Over the two months, increases in the apparel and medical care indexes offset lower costs for housing and transportation. The increases came after the all items index reported no change in the July-August pricing period. Over the first 10 months of 2001, the index has risen 2.8 percent compared to a 2.9 percent rise in the all items index for the comparable period last year.

Among the special indexes compiled, energy costs continued to decline, dropping 3.9 percent over two months after declining 7.1 percent in the July-August period. Lower costs for electricity, utility natural gas service, and gasoline all contributed to the decline in energy prices. Food costs rose a modest 0.2 percent in the current pricing period. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale has risen 0.9 percent since August 2001.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Miami-Fort Lauderdale by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since October 2000	Over 2 months since August 2001
All items	2.7	0.4
Food and beverages	2.7	0.1
Housing	3.1	-0.1
Apparel	0.5	4.7
Transportation	-1.3	-0.4
Medical care	7.0	3.6
Recreation 1/	7.0	0.5
Education and communication 1/	3.0	1.3
Other goods and services	8.2	1.2

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Among the major groups, the food and beverages index rose slightly, increasing 0.1 percent after rising 0.6 percent in the July-August pricing period. Costs for food at home declined 0.1 percent while costs for food away from home rose 0.6 percent. The alcoholic beverages index dropped 1.9 percent over the two months. Since October 2000, food and beverages costs in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area have increased 2.7 percent.

Housing costs registered their first decline of the year, dropping 0.1 percent. The decline was due to a 5.2 percent drop in the household fuels and utilities index, as both electricity and utility natural gas service recorded lower costs over the two months. Costs for shelter rose 0.6 percent as owners' equivalent rent of primary property increased 0.9 percent. Over the past 12 months, housing costs have increased 3.1 percent despite a 6.6 percent drop in the costs of fuels and utilities.

The apparel index accelerated its increase, rising 4.7 percent over the most recent two months following a 1.4 percent rise in the July-August period. With the most recent increases, the index, which is subject to volatility, has risen 0.5 percent since October 2000.

Transportation costs dropped a more modest 0.4 percent in the most recent pricing period after declining 2.9 percent in the July-August pricing period. A 1.8 percent decline in the cost of gasoline contributed to the decrease in the transportation index. Since October 2000, the transportation index has dropped 1.3 percent, reflecting an 8.1 percent decline in gasoline costs.

The medical care index, which had risen 0.4 percent in July-August, rose 3.6 percent over the most recent two months. The two month advance was greater than the total increase recorded in the index from October 2000 through August 2001. Over the past 12 months, the medical care index has increased 7.0 percent. Other indexes reported include the recreation index, which rose 0.5 percent in the current pricing period. Several months of large increases since February are reflected in the index's 7.0 percent advance since October 2000. Costs for education and communication rose 1.3 percent over the most recent two months. Since October 2000, the index has advanced 3.0 percent. Costs for other goods and services continued to accelerate their advance, rising 1.2 percent compared to a 0.9 percent rise in July-August and a 0.2 percent rise in the May-June period. With the most recent increase, the index has risen 8.2 percent since October 2000.

### **Consumer Price Index for the South and Atlanta**

Consumer price indexes are published monthly for the South and bi-monthly for the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas. For the two months ending in October, consumer prices in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area rose faster than in the South and the Atlanta area. Since August, prices in the South, as measured by the CPI-U, increased 0.1 percent, while prices in the Atlanta area dropped 0.1 percent. Over the past year, consumer prices in Miami-Fort Lauderdale have climbed faster than the South and at about the same pace as in the Atlanta area. Since October 2000, the CPI-U for the South has advanced 1.9 percent, while the all items index for Atlanta rose 2.8 percent.

### **Technical Notes**

For the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area, data are collected bi-monthly, with selected items collected monthly. The publication cycle for the index has been changed to publish data for even months, beginning with release of the February 1998 data. In each revision, the CPI geographic sample is selected to be representative of the current demographics of the United States. The 1998 revision utilizes the 1990 Census of population. The CPI developed an updated area sample design, decided on new local area indexes and changed the frequency of publication for local area indexes in order to better reflect these new demographics.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at <http://www.bls.gov>. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at <http://www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm>. CPI data are also available through our fax-on-demand system. Table 1 for the CPI-U, South may be found under Code 9110. Data in this table are updated monthly and are available on the day of release. For a catalog of items available to be faxed to you, call our fax-on-demand number at (404) 331-3403. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 331-3415, and customers in the Miami area can reach us at (305) 358-2305.

### **Revisions to the Consumer Price Indexes**

Users should be aware that CPI data were revised to correct an error in the residential rent and owners' equivalent rent components. Indexes were revised for both the CPI-U and CPI-W for the period January 2000 through August 2000. For more information, contact the Atlanta information office.

### **Change in the Consumer Price Index Formula**

On April 16, 1998, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced its decision to use a new formula for calculating the basic components of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This change became effective with data for January 1999.

The new formula, the geometric mean estimator, is used in index categories that comprise approximately 61 percent of total consumer spending represented by the CPI-U. The remaining index categories will continue to be calculated as they have been. Based upon BLS research, it is expected that new formula will reduce the annual rate of increase in the CPI by approximately 0.2 percentage point per year.

The geometric mean estimator was introduced in both the CPI-U and the CPI-W effective with data for January 1999, in accord with the past practice of introducing methodological changes at the beginning of a calendar year. BLS continued to publish "overlap" CPI-U and CPI-W series using the current calculation method for the first six months of 1999. These indexes will not be published regularly for months subsequent to June 1999, but will be available upon request. Additional information on this change was published in the April 1998 CPI Detailed Report and is available on the Internet.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers and urban wage earners and clerical workers, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida (1982-84=100) (Not seasonally adjusted)

Group	All urban consumers			Urban wage earners and clerical workers		
	Index Oct 2001	Percent change to Oct 2001 from		Index Oct 2001	Percent change to Oct 2001 from	
		Oct 2000	: Aug 2001		Oct 2000	: Aug 2001
All items	174.2	2.7	0.4	171.7	2.8	0.5
All Items (Nov. 1977=100)	280.7	-	-	279.0	-	-
Food and beverages	181.8	2.7	0.1	180.5	2.6	0.1
Food	182.2	2.7	0.2	181.6	2.7	0.3
Food at home	179.1	3.3	-0.1	177.1	3.4	0.0
Food away from home	188.5	1.8	0.6	191.0	1.8	0.6
Alcoholic beverages	178.5	1.8	-1.9	164.4	0.9	-2.5
Housing	164.8	3.1	-0.1	163.5	3.4	-0.1
Shelter	174.6	2.8	0.6	174.5	3.1	0.7
Rent of primary residence	162.5	3.7	0.7	162.5	3.7	0.7
Owners' equivalent rent 1/	176.9	3.3	0.9	170.1	3.3	0.9
Fuel and utilities	126.7	6.6	-5.2	126.8	6.4	-5.2
Fuels	118.5	9.3	-6.1	118.7	8.9	-6.2
Gas (piped) and electricity	117.1	9.2	-6.2	117.2	9.1	-6.2
Electricity	115.0	10.0	-6.2	115.0	10.0	-6.2
Utility natural gas service	166.0	-11.3	-8.0	166.0	-11.3	-8.0
Household furnishings and operation	165.9	2.0	-0.1	163.4	2.1	0.6
Apparel	156.9	0.5	4.7	168.9	2.4	4.8
Transportation	157.8	-1.3	-0.4	155.0	-1.4	-0.6
Private transportation	156.6	-1.9	-0.4	154.2	-1.9	-0.5
Motor fuel	128.7	-8.1	-1.7	128.7	-8.1	-1.7
Gasoline (all types)	127.7	-8.1	-1.8	127.7	-8.1	-1.8
Regular unleaded 2/	124.3	-10.5	-2.4	124.3	-10.5	-2.4
Midgrade unleaded 2/ 3/	120.5	-7.9	-1.5	120.5	-7.9	-1.5
Premium unleaded 2/	128.1	-6.5	-1.5	128.1	-6.5	-1.5
Medical care	261.6	7.0	3.6	260.3	7.4	4.1
Recreation 4/	105.2	7.0	0.5	104.0	7.7	0.5
Education and communication 4/	108.8	3.0	1.3	109.7	3.1	1.8
Other goods and services	234.2	8.2	1.2	227.0	8.0	1.3
SPECIAL AGGREGATE INDEXES						
Commodities	162.7	0.7	0.2	162.3	0.8	0.3
Commodities less food and beverages	149.5	-0.7	0.3	151.0	-0.4	0.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	148.9	0.1	0.9	151.6	0.6	1.0
Durables	151.3	-1.8	-0.6	149.3	-1.6	-0.3
Services	184.4	4.2	0.5	182.0	4.4	0.6
All items less medical care	169.5	2.5	0.2	167.7	2.6	0.4
All items less shelter	174.0	2.7	0.3	171.0	2.7	0.4
Commodities less food	151.0	-0.6	0.2	151.4	-0.3	0.3
Nondurables	166.8	1.5	0.5	167.2	1.6	0.5
Nondurables less food	151.4	0.2	0.8	152.1	0.6	0.7
Energy	121.6	-0.7	-3.9	120.1	-1.3	-3.8
All items less energy	179.9	2.9	0.7	178.4	3.1	0.8
All items less food and energy	179.4	3.0	0.9	177.8	3.2	1.0
Purchasing power of the consumer						
dollar: 1982-84=\$1.00	\$ .574	-	-	\$.582	-	-
November 1977=\$1.00	\$ .356	-	-	\$.358	-	-

1/ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

3/ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

2/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

4/ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

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